

R E M A R K S

In the above-identified Office Action a requirement was made in paragraph 4 to amend the Title, and in paragraph 5 to amend the Abstract. In response Applicants have entered amendments to both of those portions of the Specification. Accordingly, it is believed that the Title and Abstract are now presented in good form.

With respect to the claims, it is noted that each of the objections under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been addressed in the foregoing amendments to the claims. Particularly, the hyphenated phrase which was objected to has been revised; and the phrase "or more" has been deleted.

All of the claims, except for Claim 2, were rejected in view of the cited Ashinuma patent which discloses a method of setting an optimal reproduction power in a DWDD medium in which a domain wall displacement start reproduction power Prdwd and a maximum reproduction power Prmax (\neq optimal reproduction power) are detected and arithmetically processed ($Pr=(Prdwd+3 \times Prmax)/4$) to determine an optimal reproduction power Pr. However, in Ashinuma, a difference or ratio between Prdwd and Prmax is not calculated. A key feature of Ashinuma is that an optimal reproduction power is not learned directly but is calculated on the basis of Prdwd and Prmax.

On the contrary, in the present invention, the magnetized-state-change-starting light beam power (corresponding to Prdwd above) is detected while the optimum reproducing power Pr is learned and determined, and the difference or ratio therebetween is calculated and stored. Then, when the reproducing power needs to be reset because of the lapse of a predetermined period of time or of a temperature change exceeding a predetermined value, the Pr value is reset by newly detecting the magnetized-state-change-starting light beam power and using the newly detected light beam power and the stored difference or ratio. A key feature of the present invention resides in this unique method of resetting the optimum reproducing power.

Further, the present invention as set forth in Claim 11 is to define the timing for resetting the reproducing power or recording power. However, the cited Ashinuma patent neither discloses nor suggests resetting the reproducing power or recording power on the basis of difference between a value of the magnetized-state-change-starting light beam power presently detected and a value of the magnetized-state-change-starting light beam power previously detected.

As described above, the process of setting an optimum reproducing power disclosed in Ashinuma is quite different from that of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is believed to be allowable over the Ashinuma patent, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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